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*Newsline Extra features time-sensitive information about State Library programs and current news of interest to the Missouri library community.*

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## **New Grant Opportunities Available**

Secretary of State Robin Carnahan and State Librarian Margaret Conroy are pleased to offer Missouri libraries several opportunities to improve library service through the use of federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds. These grants are based on priorities in the *Missouri Five-Year State Plan 2003-2008*. Applications are welcome from public, academic, special, institutional and public school libraries in Missouri, although all grants are not available to all institutions. Deadline for grant applications is July 3, 2006. Short-term grant recipients will be notified of awards no later than September 1, 2006. Grant opportunities for the summer round of short term grants are:

- Bring in an Expert
- Planning and Standards
- Show Me Steps to Career Development
- Spotlight on Library Programs
- Training and Professional Development
- Senior Service – Senior Fairs

Application forms may be obtained by calling 1-800-325-0131, or downloaded from our Web site at <http://www.sos.mo.gov/library/development/grants.asp>.

For more information regarding these program opportunities for your library, contact Diana Very, LSTA Grant Officer, at 573-526-1256 or 1-800-325-0131, ext. 16

## **NCES Unleashes new COOL website**

The National Center for Education Statistics has released a new version of the College Opportunities Online Locator (COOL) website. This interactive Web site is designed to provide students, parents, high school counselors, and other information on postsecondary education in the United States. The site allows for the users to see and compare profiles of nearly 7,000 colleges and universities throughout the nation. The NCES is part of the United States Department of Education. The COOL Web site can be found at <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cool/>

## **Libri Foundation Offers Children's Book Grants for Rural Libraries**

The Libri Foundation (<http://www.librifoundation.org/>) was established for the sole purpose of helping rural libraries in the U.S. acquire new, quality, hardcover children's books they could not otherwise afford to buy. Since 1990, the foundation has donated more than \$2.8 million worth of new children's books to over 2,200 libraries in 48 states.

The foundation works with an applicant library's Friends of the Library or other local organizations and seeks to encourage and reward local support of libraries. The Friends, or

other local sponsors, can contribute from \$50 to \$350, which the foundation matches on a two-to-one ratio. Thus, a library can receive up to \$1,050 worth of books through the foundation's Books for Children program.

Libraries are qualified on an individual basis. In general, county libraries should serve a population under 16,000 and town libraries should serve a population under 10,000 (usually under 5,000). Libraries should be in a rural area, have a limited operating budget, and an active children's department. Please note: "rural" is usually considered to be at least 30 miles from a city with a population of 40,000 or more.

Applications are accepted from independent libraries as well as libraries that are part of a county, regional, or cooperative library system. Applications are accepted from school libraries only if they also serve as the local public library.

The foundation awards grants three times a year. The next deadline is July 15, 2006. Complete guidelines, eligibility information, and application forms are available on the Libri Foundation Web site at <http://fonline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/10002208/libri>.

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